

REMARKS

In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I (e.g., drawn to an electronic camera obtaining images of tourist spots as defined by claims 1-2 and 4-5), with traverse. Applicants reserve the opportunity to file Divisional Applications for the non-elected inventions later.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement for the following reasons. First, all of Groups I-III are classified in the same class. Thus, although Groups I, II, and III may be classified in different subclasses, the Examiner's search with regard to Groups I-III claims would be coextensive, such that there would be no additional searching burden placed on the PTO in the examination of Groups I-III claims in the same application.

Further, even assuming arguendo that a slight, additional searching burden was imposed upon the PTO if the Groups I-III claims were examined in the same application, the burden to the Applicants would be much greater in terms of financial considerations, since a divisional application is likely to be filed. Divisional applications are costly, with the present filing, issue, and maintenance fees alone being \$5,000. Thus, from a financial standpoint, Applicants' costs associated with filing and prosecuting a divisional application are believed to outweigh any additional costs (e.g., due to searching) incurred by the PTO if claims 3 and 6-7 were to be examined in the same application.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner amend the Restriction Requirement, and examine all of the Groups I-III claims in the same application.

Further, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's acknowledgment of the priority document filed on March 20, 2001.

Early, favorable prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.


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Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A conditional petition is made for any extension of time which may become necessary. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees for such extension and to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,



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